

*2. *A. nigrivitta*, Hamps. Nilgiris.3. *A. divisa*, Moore. Dharmasala.

Section JOCHEÆRA, Hübn.

1. *A. alni*, Linn. Ausbach, Livonia, &c.*2. *A. connecta*, Grote. New York.

We also have a pretty species from Madagascar. It has probably been named by Herr Saalmüller or M. Mabile; but at present I cannot spare the time to look it up. Grote's *A. funeralis* is unknown to me, but (if confounded with *A. americana*) can hardly belong to the section *Jochæera*.

Section MASTIPHANES, Grote.

*1. *A. denticulata*, Moore. Dharmasala and Sabathu.*2. *A. edolata*, Grote. Arizona.

Section MEROLONCHE, Grote.

*1. *A. spinea*, Grote. California.2. *A. Lupini*, Behr. Mendocino.

It is possible that one or two of the Japanese and Chinese forms enumerated above may be synonymous with species described from East Siberia; but the illustrations to the 'Lepidopteren Ost-Sibiriens' and 'Reisen und Forschungen im Amur-Lande' are so poor that, without seeing examples from the Amur, it would not be possible to be certain of the identity of the species, in a genus containing so many closely related forms.

LXV.—Notes on some Mexican *Oryzomys*.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

DR. A. C. BULLER has lately sent to the British Museum a specimen of an *Oryzomys* from Jalisco which appears to be new, and in working this out I find that some confusion exists as to Alston's *Hesperomys Couesi*, in clearing up which a second species in the Museum collection proves to need description.

Hesperomys Couesi, Alston.

Hesperomys Couesi, Alston, P. Z. S. 1876, p. 756.

This species, described by Alston from three specimens now in the British Museum, has proved rather a stumbling-block to later workers, and this is not surprising, as an examination of his specimen shows that the three examples represent certainly two, and perhaps three, different species. The question therefore that at once arises is as to which of the three should be taken as the type, a question which, on the principle of the selection of the first-named species as the type of a genus, may best be settled by taking Mr. Alston's specimen *a* as the type of *H. Couesi*. This selection is supported both by the fact that the first five lines of the description itself are solely based on the spirit-specimen and also by Mr. Alston's known partiality to working on alcoholic material; so that no one who knew his methods would doubt as to which he himself would have chosen. I propose therefore for the future to look upon Mr. Salvin's spirit-specimen from Coban, Guatemala, whose measurements are given in Mr. Alston's first column, as the type of his *H. Couesi*.

Whether *c*, from Mexico (*Verreaux*), is or is not the same species I am at present unable definitely to decide; but that *b* is distinct from either is perfectly clear, its distinctive characters, both cranial and external, being more definite than are those separating any other two members of this difficult group.

The true *O. Couesi*, as represented by the type specimen, is a small species with slender limbs and long tail. Its colour is fulvous, darker along the centre of the back and paler, but not white, on the belly. The fur is fairly soft, but not thick and woolly as Alston stated, that remark evidently resting on specimen *b* (my *O. fulgens*). The measurements of the typical skull are given below and also those of the skull of an old male from the Hacienda Cubilguitz, about 25 miles north of Coban, which with some hesitation I refer to this species.

Oryzomys fulgens, sp. n.

Size large. Fur very thick, coarse, and woolly. General colour above bright fulvous, brighter than in any other Central-American species; anterior half of the body, including the head, rather paler and duller than the posterior half. Ears decidedly small, broadly rounded, thinly hairy, their hairs practically the same colour as those of the head in general, so that they are not distinguishable by colour at a

distance. Lips, chin, throat, and inguinal region whitish, belly with a strong suffusion of fawn, which reaches a maximum on the breast between the fore legs; passage of upper colour into lower quite gradual. Outer sides of limbs like back, inner sides whitish; upper surfaces of hands and feet thinly clothed with pale silvery-fawn hairs. Tail long, thinly haired, the scales not hidden by the hairs; above blackish, below yellowish, darkening towards the tip.

Skull readily distinguishable from all allied species by its great breadth, the bold expansion of the zygomata, and especially by the evenly incurved outline of the supraorbital edges; in all other species these edges form two approximately straight lines diverging from the narrowest interorbital point, but in *O. fulgens* the whole inner wall of the orbit forms one even curve, the breadth at the posterior end of the olfactory chamber being scarcely greater than at the anterior end. Nasals broad and flattened. Frontal premaxillary processes very narrow and barely attaining to the same level as the back of the nasals. Anterior palatine foramina large, widely open, their posterior margin just level with the front of $\frac{m.1}{1}$.

Measurements of the type (an adult male in skin):—

Head and body 160 millim.; tail 151; hind foot, without claw 35, with claw 37·5; ear (approximate) from notch 13·3.

Skull (see below).

Hab. Mexico. Coll. A. Boucard.

Type B.M. 70. 6. 20. 3. Purchased of Geale.

As already noted, this species is founded on specimen *b* of Mr. Alston's description of *Hesperomys Couesi*. Its exact locality unfortunately must remain unknown until further specimens of it are found; but its characters, both external and cranial, are so striking that I have no hesitation in describing it as a distinct species.

Oryzomys melanotis, sp. n.

Size small, form more slender and delicate than in the allied species. Fur straight, close and crisp. General colour grizzled rufous, brighter and clearer on the sides and rump. Lips, inner sides of limbs, and whole under surface white, the line of demarcation on sides well defined; the belly-hairs are, however, as usual slaty grey basally. Ears large, projecting far beyond the fur, closely covered with short black hairs, their black colour contrasting conspicuously with the general rufous colour of the head. Upper surfaces of hands and feet whitish. Tail long, very scantily haired, blackish above, whitish below.

Skull unusually broad considering its small size. Nasals very broad behind, surpassing in length the premaxillary processes. Interorbital space very broad. Supraorbital beads widely divergent. Anterior and posterior edges of interparietal forming two nearly equal curves. Anterior palatine foramina ending in front of m_1 a distance nearly equal to the length of m_3 . Posterior nares widely open, rounded.

Teeth small and delicate.

Dimensions of the type (B.M. 93. 3. 6. 25), an old male in skin:—

Head and body 97 millim.; tail 127; hind foot, without claws (damped) 27, with claws 28; ear from notch 18.

Skull (see below).

Hab. Mineral San Sebastian, Jalisco, Mexico. Coll. Dr. A. C. Buller, Jan. 25, 1893.

The type specimen of this species being quite old, with the molar teeth much worn down, its small size will readily distinguish it from all its allies, except the still smaller *O. Alfari*, Allen, from Costa Rica.

Measurements of the Skulls of the above Species.

	<i>Oryzomys Couesi</i> .			
	Type, ♀. millim.	Hacienda Cubilguitz, ♂. millim.	<i>O. fulgens</i> . Type, ♂. millim.	<i>O. melanotis</i> . Type, ♂. millim.
Basal length	(c.) 26.6	30.4	....	25.1
Upper length*	(c.) 30.5	34.8	(31.8†)	29.5
Zygomatic breadth . . . . .	....	17.8	(c.) 17.8	(c.) 15.2
Nasals, length	11.1	14.1	13.2	12.0
Interorbital breadth	(c.) 5.2	5.9	4.8	5.1
Breadth of brain-case	12.7	13.2	....	12.8
Interparietal, length	3.5	3.3	....	3.4
" breadth	7.9	7.8	....	10.0
Palate-length . . . . .	....	17.7	....	15.5
Diastema	8.6	9.3	9.1	8.1
Length of palatine foramina	6.2	7.0	7.2	5.8
Length of upper molar series	4.8	4.8	5.2	4.3

LXVI.—*Description of a new Species of Perognathus from Colorado.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

AMONG a series of what appear, from Dr. Merriam's able monograph, to be *Perognathus flavus*, Bd., collected by Mr. W. G. Smith in Colorado and acquired by the British Museum, there is a single specimen obviously different from

* To back of interparietal, excluding supraoccipital.

† Interparietal lost; from back of parietal suture only.